

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02096 01 OF 02 241612Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NASA-02 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02

DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 NRC-07 /186 W

-----102392 241619Z /50

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1535

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02096

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, US, UNGA, IO

SUBJECT: UNSSOD: MAY 23 OPENING OF SESSION

1. SUMMARY: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT OPENED ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 23, 1978. LAZAR MOJSOV OF YUGOSLAVIA WAS RETAINED AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND BOTH MOJSOV AND SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM MADE STATEMENTS. AMB CARLOS ORTIZ DE ROZAS OF ARGENTINA WAS ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT. GENERAL DEBATE BEGINS ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 24. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) OPENED ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 23. YUGOSLAV VICE-MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS LAZAR MOJSOV WAS RETAINED BY ACCLAMATION AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND HE MADE AN OPENING STATEMENT. MOJSOV NOTED THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN BRINGING ABOUT THE SPECIAL SESSION. MOJSOV STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF "ENDING THE ARMS RACE AND PREVENTION OF A COLOSSAL WASTE OF HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES," BUT HE NOTED THAT SO FAR "NO
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02096 01 OF 02 241612Z

SERIOUS BREAKTHROUGH HAS BEEN MADE IN DISARMAMENT EFFORTS IN ORDER TO SECURE A LASTING PEACE, PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT AND GUARANTEE WORLD SECURITY WITHOUT BASING IT ALL ON THE POWER OF WEAPONS." MOJSOV SAID THAT "THE CONTINUING STOCKPILING OF DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS IN THE ARSENALS OF MAJOR PROTAGONISTS . . . HAS LED TO AN ABSURD RACE." HE MENTIONED THE "DESTRUCTIVE OVER-KILL CAPACITY" WHICH IS A

"SOURCE OF MISTRUST AND RIVALRY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN RELATIONS AMONG THE GREAT POWERS." MOJSOV CALLED FOR AN END TO THE ARMS RACE AND FOR ACTION TO "TOTALLY PROHIBIT ALL TYPES OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS." MOJSOV OFFERED HIS BELIEF THAT "THE UNITED NATIONS CAN ASSUME ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE PROCESS OF DISARMAMENT," AND HE SAID THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION "REPRESENTS, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, A VERY EXCEPTIONAL EVENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS." HE SAID THAT "A NEW PAGE HAS BEEN TURNED IN THE HISTORY OF THIS ORGANIZATION, A PAGE THAT SHOULD BE WRITTEN WITH WORDS OF SUBSTANCE MATCHING THE POLITICAL MATURITY AND DETERMINATION OF ALL OF US TO INITIATE THE DISARMAMENT PROCESS."

3. SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM MADE A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE NOTED THAT WITHIN THE UN FRAMEWORK IMPORTANT ARMS CONTROL STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. HE POINTED TO THE CONVENTION BANNING BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS; TO TREATIES PROHIBITING THE STATIONING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE SEA-BEDS, IN OUTER SPACE, AND IN THE ANTARCTIC; TO THE TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE ATMOSPHERE, IN OUTER SPACE, AND UNDER WATER, TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY; TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN LATIN AMERICA; AND TO THE PROHIBITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. WALDHEIM NOTED SUCH OTHER "HOPEFUL POSSIBILITIES" AS NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN AND ON UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02096 01 OF 02 241612Z

THE BANNING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. HE REFERRED TO THE SALT TALKS AND SAID HE WAS "HAPPY TO NOTE THAT, APPARENTLY, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS A NEW AGREEMENT IS BEING MADE." WALDHEIM ALSO POINTED TO PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES, NEGOTIATIONS TO REDUCE MILITARY FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AND EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE. BUT WALDHEIM SAID THAT "THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE DWARFED BY THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE." AND HE POINTED TO THE EMERGENCE OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND THE "MULTIPLICATION OF WARHEADS ON A SINGLE CARRIER." WALDHEIM ASSERTED THAT IT WAS "IMPERATIVE THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION SET A COURSE WHICH WILL TURN THE WORLD AWAY FROM POTENTIAL DISASTER." WALDHEIM STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING A "COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL STUDY IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT," AND TO THAT END HE ASKED THE ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN "ADVISORY BOARD COMPOSED OF EMINENT PERSONS" WHO HAVE EXPERTISE IN THESE MATTERS. WALDHEIM ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS A NEED TO INTENSIFY NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF INFORMATION AND STUDY CONCERNING DISARMAMENT, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT MEMBER STATES "DEVOTE TO NATIONAL AND

INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT EFFORTS ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR EVERY THOUSAND MILLION CURRENTLY SPENT ON ARMS." WALDHEIM ASSERTED THAT "A SECURITY BASED ON ARMS IS PRECARIOUS AT BEST, SINCE ARMS PERPETUATE DISTRUST AND FEAR AMONG NATIONS AND CREATE PERMANENT RISK OF WAR." HE CALLED UPON THE MEMBER STATES TO FORMULATE A STRATEGY "WITH THE AIM NOT MERELY OF ARMS CONTROL BUT OF MEANINGFUL DISARMAMENT."

4. AMB CARLOS ORTIZ DE ROZAS OF ARGENTINA, WHO HAS BEEN

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 02096 02 OF 02 241612Z
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NASA-02 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02096

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SSOD, WAS ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION TO BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY SESSION'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT.

5. GENERAL DEBATE BEGINS ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 24, WHEN YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT DJURANOVIC, VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE, VENEZUALAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI, CYPRIOT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU, AND SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN WILL SPEAK. YOUNG

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TAGS: PARM, US, IO, UNGA, (MOJSOV, LAZAR), (WALDHEIM, KURT)
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